



Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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Robert T. Matsui

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CONTACT: ELIZABETH LIETZ
(202) 225-7163/(202) 225-0564

MATSUI ANNOUNCES SAND COVE PARK TO RECEIVE \$300,000 TO PROTECT PARK, NATIVE AMERICAN BURIAL SITE

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Robert T. Matsui announced today Sand Cove Park, located along the Sacramento River, will receive \$300,000 to combat riverbank erosion. Preventing further erosion of the riverbanks will repair river wildlife habitats, improve water quality, and preserve a culturally and archeologically significant Native American burial site.

“Because of erosion, Sand Cove Park is at risk of literally being washed away,” Congressman Matsui said. “The Native American burial site is a cultural treasure. Saving this historic site from erosion will protect this valuable resource from further destruction.”

Sand Cove Park is the only free public park within the Sacramento city limits. It is both a popular recreation site and the location of important Native American burial grounds.

Erosion has already washed significant amounts of the ancient remains, considered sacred by Native Americans, from the burial site down the river. The park is eligible to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places because of the remains, but first the riverbanks must be permanently restored and protected. Stabilizing and re-vegetating the riverbanks will help ensure the Register considers protecting the park.

“This is an important first step in ensuring Sand Cove Park receives the protections provided by the National Register of Historic Places,” Matsui said.

The approved erosion prevention measure has another benefit. Less sediment being deposited in the river will improve water quality.

The funding is part of the FY 2004 Energy and Water Appropriations conference, which the House of Representatives approved today on a vote of 387-36. The bill must now pass the Senate, and then be signed by the President.

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